

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 1-16 have been cancelled, while claims 17 and 18 have been amended for clarity.

The Examiner has rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0191528A1 to Sugaya in view of U.S. Patent 6,262,960 to Watanabe, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,307,712 to Meguro et al.

Since Sugaya and Watanabe are concerned only with a disc drive apparatus and claims 17 and 18 do not include any limitations directed to Sugaya and Watanabe, Applicants will not address these references.

The Meguro et al. patent discloses an assembly for discrimination disc storage capacity in a disc cartridge, in which a main disc member comprising a flexible magnetic disc is contained in a disc cartridge. The main disc member 56 has a central aperture 57 in which a hub or center core 58 is snugly, the center core 58 being formed of a magnetic material.

The Examiner has indicated that Meguro et al. discloses "Record disc provided with an annular disc hub (figure 2, item 6), which is magnetically attractable (column 1, lines 40-45), the disc having a first main surface for facing a write/read pickup (figure 7, top side) and a second main surface (figure 8, top side)

opposite said first main surface for facing a front face of a motor hub of a disc drive apparatus according to claim 1;
Wherein said annular disc hub has a top surface, which is flush with said second main surface of the disc (see figure 8) or, preferably, which is slightly recessed below said second main surface of the disc over a small distance (see figure 8)."

With regard to the "annular disc hub", Applicants submit that the Examiner is mistaken. In particular, the Examiner identifies the "first main surface" in Meguro et al. as being that shown on top in Fig. 7, while the "second main surface" is that shown on top in Fig. 8. According to Meguro et al., "FIG. 9 is an exploded perspective view of the disc cartridge of FIG. 7" (col. 8, lines 50-51. In Fig. 9, Applicants point out the flange 60 of the center core 58 which overlies the first main surface ("The center core 58 is mounted on the main disc member 56 by fitting the swollen-out portion 59 in the center aperture 57 of the main disc member 56, setting the flange 60 on one surface of the main disc member 56 and by bonding the flange 60 to the main disc member 56 with an adhesive.", col. 9, lines 35-39). Now, Fig. 10 shows a cross-section of the disc cartridge of Figs. 7 and 9. Noting the position of the flange 60 with respect to the magnetic disc 55, it should be apparent that the swollen-out portion 59 of the center core 58 is not "flush with said second main surface of the disc, or which is slightly recessed below said second main surface of the disc over a small distance" as specifically claimed in claim 17. In

fact, the swollen-out portion 59 substantially protrudes beyond the second main surface of the record disc.

With regard to claim 18, the Examiner indicates that Meguro et al. discloses "said annular disc hub has a bottom surface which is flush with said first main surface of the disc (see figure 9, item 58) or, preferably, which is slightly recessed from said first main surface of the disc over a small distance; Said annular disc hub3 preferably being symmetrical so that said two distances are the same (recesses of 58 are same on both sides)."

Again, Applicants submit that the Examiner is mistaken. In particular, as noted above, Meguro et al. specifically states, at col. 9, lines 35-39, "The center core 58 is mounted on the main disc member 56 by fitting the swollen-out portion 59 in the center aperture 57 of the main disc member 56, setting the flange 60 on one surface of the main disc member 56 and by bonding the flange 60 to the main disc member 56 with an adhesive." As such, the center core 58 is surely not "flush with said first main surface of the disc, or which is slightly recessed from said first main surface of the disc over a small distance".

Since it is apparent that the center core is not flush nor recessed from either the first main surface or the second main surface, but rather protrudes from both main surfaces, Applicants submit that the limitation "said annular disc hub preferably being symmetrical so that said two distances are the same" certainly is not met by Meguro et al. However, notwithstanding the above, is

should be apparent that the center hub in Meguro et al. do not protrude beyond the first and second main surfaces symmetrically such that the distances of the protrusions are the same.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is not rendered obvious by the prior art, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 17 and 18, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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